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the perverted sort of man-hating, unforgiving Christianity so well known in the West. Are the "non-Christian critics" any more likely to be attracted toward a "fighting" Christianity when they see it in actual operation in their own country than when they saw it building iron-clads and making Gatling guns in England?

We sympathize deeply with the vein of sadness and perplexity which run through Mr. Atkinson's letter from which we quote. War always cripples and often entirely breaks up Christian work, even when Christian workers have been entirely faithful to the peace principles of the Gospel. Christianity ought everywhere with solid front to oppose it as one of its most deadly enemies. It is a well known historic fact that whenever war breaks out between two peoples, the conversion of men to Christ nearly entirely ceases among them. It could not be otherwise. War is "the hour and power of darkness," when "an eye for an eye" and "a tooth for a tooth" becomes the law of men's thoughts, words and actions, and no place is left for love and mercy and the forgiveness of enemies, without the cherishing of which one can not be Christ's disciple. We fear that a great opportunity has been lost in the East, from the failure of the Christian missions there to inculcate prominently in their teachings the radical opposition between the Christ-spirit and the war-spirit, otherwise the "Christians" would not be "holding sunrise meetings to pray for the success" of their armies, but would be unitedly beseeching God to put a speedy end to the cruel and inhuman war.

THE SCHOOLS AND THE MILITIA.

The following notice was sent to the various Principals of the Boston Public Schools on the 5th of October:

BOSTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS.
SECRETARY'S OFFICE.

To the Principals of Schools:

By order of the President of the School Committee, there will be no sessions of the Boston Public Schools on Tuesday, Oct. 9, 1894, the day of the Mobilization of the Militia of Massachusetts in Boston.

You will please give notice of this order to the teachers under your charge, and see that proper announcement of it is made in the schools of your district.

By order of the President.

PHINEAS BATES, Secretary.

Boston, Oct. 5, 1894.

The purpose of this action of the President of the School Committee, though not distinctly stated, is perfectly clear from the wording of the order. It was that the Directors of the schools, and through them the teachers and pupils of the schools, might show special honor to the military organization of the State, and that the youth of Boston might have leisure to see the military display and become fired with the martial spirit. The advocates of the military drill in the schools have,

for the most part, strenuously denied that they wish to cultivate a military spirit in the boys, and that the drill has any tendency to create such a spirit. But the President of the Boston School Board has made it evident that he is not of this manner of thinking. He would doubtless agree with the *Boston Journal* in saying (Oct. 10) that "to encourage this militant spirit among the youth is recognized here as one of the chief duties of patriotic statesmanship." The dismissing of the schools was not to give the pupils a holiday for rest, but a bowing down in reverence, pure and simple, of the whole educational work of Boston to the military organization, without which it is supposed that Massachusetts cannot even to-day exist in safety.

We thought it was beginning to be recognized that the world had reached a stage of maturity when the fighting spirit ought to be eliminated from society, but here we have the Head Manager of one of the finest city school systems in the world practically saying: "No; one of the chief duties of modern education is to teach the boys (and the girls, too,) to develop their fighting instincts and to love the pomp and display of militarism." We cannot believe that the masters and sub-masters and teachers of the schools, who are in daily contact with the pupils, and see the need of having them learn to suppress their selfish and retaliative instincts, are in sympathy with this wholesale effort to have the spirit of fighting intensified in them.

Even if we grant that the militia is a necessity in the present state of society, there is no occasion whatever to bring it forward so conspicuously as was done on this occasion. Why not bring out the police force of our city and put it in parade in the same way? The police are much more needed for the preservation of order, and they are daily, often without any recognition whatever, performing the most thankless kind of services for us. The militia, on the contrary, are kept at the expense of the State and rarely, if ever, from year's end to year's end, perform any service whatever. The police were certainly more entitled to a parade, but that would not have served the purpose of those who wish to foster the fighting spirit. There is no "glory" in being a policeman.

But why, even if the mobilization of the troops had to occur, should *sixty-five thousand* boys and girls be interrupted in their school work for a whole day because *six thousand* men were to march for a few hours in the streets? Why did not the business men of the city, whose property would be endangered in case of riot or invasion, close all their houses for the day and send all their clerks out on the streets to be inflamed anew with "patriotism"? One has only to ask such questions, to see how crafty the War God is in making it his special purpose to get out all the children of tender age and susceptible minds, when he flies his flags and rattles his drums.

The action of the School Committee, to say the least of it, was hardly less than a disgrace to the public school work of the city, a humiliating confession of the inferiority of the intellectual and moral force of the community to the mere physical power of bullet and bayonet. The safety of the State of Massachusetts depends a thousand-fold more on her educational system than it does on her militia. If the future safety of the State demanded that there should be a parade at all, it would have been much more sensible to have put the *sixty-five thousand* school boys and girls on the streets, with their books and slates in their hands, and to have ordered all the militia out to see *them*, the real defenders of the Commonwealth. That would have been in harmony with the new time in which we live. But this effort to revive the militarism of the past, to re-enthroned the bloody-footed Mars, to create the soldier spirit in all the boys of the land as if the whole nation were soon to be called upon to go *en masse* to repel an invasion of its foes, is a monstrous piece of folly and blindness. It is to suppose that the days of the Huns and the Visigoths are about to return.

This mobilization of the militia of Massachusetts illustrated in a striking way how much war and the war-spirit have always depended for support on the glamour of dress and banners, the fascination of martial music, and all the captivating display of military parade. Without these the war system could hardly have lived till now. Wherever the columns of Massachusetts troops marched on the 9th of October, in the streets of Boston, the sidewalks and doors and windows were literally packed with every sort of human being who could get a footing, and scores of urchins, some of them hardly dismissed from the maternal breast, followed after and ran alongside, fairly crazed with the glory of the soldier. If, by some magic transformation, all this display could suddenly have been changed into an actual battle, with its awful inhumanity, how different the effect would have been on these youthful imaginations! Battlefields, fresh in their ghastly reality, are seldom seen by many besides those actually engaged in the bloody work. Pity but that, if they have to be, they could be unrolled as they actually are before the eyes of those who are charmed by these deceitful parades! But few such lessons would be needed, and soon no one could repeat the word war without unutterable loathing. Here is a description, by an eye witness, of a little scene in the recent "glorious" naval fight at the mouth of the Yalu river, which we cannot write down without a shudder:

"On board the warship Chen-Yuen the fighting was awful. The deck and the space around the guns were strewn with human fragments, and three of five men working a four-ton gun were blown up by a shell from the Japanese warship Naniwa. A fourth gunner was shot while trying to escape from the turret and the fifth stuck to his post. This man fired three rounds at the Naniwa, one shell entering the engine-room of the Japa-

nese ship and another smashing her forebridge. The Naniwa then hauled off. The Admiral rewarded the surviving gunner with a present of 1,000 taels. A shell glanced from the steel deck of the Chen-Yuen and went through her tower, shattering everything therein. A lieutenant, who was in the act of speaking through the tube leading to the engine-room, was blown to atoms and his head was left hanging to the speaking-pipe. Huge fragments of armor and the teak backing thereof were carried in-board by the shot, crushing a large number of sailors into a shapeless mass. A European engineer who was in the act of groping about in an endeavor to repair a steam pipe, was drenched with the blood of an assistant, who was disembowelled by his side by a shot from the enemy's ship. The Chen-Yuen arrived at Wei Hai Wei the day after the fight in the same condition in which she left the battle. No attempt had been made to wash the blood from her or to remove the corpses which strewed her decks."

This is the actual parade of war, and whoever justifies war must justify by the thousand just such scenes as this, must say without faltering of conscience that they are right. Is this a scene the guilt of which the President of the Boston School Committee wishes to teach the boys and girls of this city to take upon their heads, in this age of kindness and humanity?

PEACE SUNDAY.

Peace Sunday will be this year, as usual, the third Sunday in December, the 16th of the month. We hope our friends everywhere will do what they can to secure the observance of the day in the interests of peace. It would be very proper to send special invitations to the pastors in your locality to devote at least one service to this subject, if it should seem to them right. Nothing could be more fitting than that the Sabbath previous to the Christmas Sunday should be set apart for the consideration of those aspects of Christ's character and teachings which make him the Prince of Peace. The day will be widely observed again this year in England as it was last, and we hope much more attention may be given to it in this country.

The Union for Practical Progress which is seeking to unite all the moral forces of the land on one reform at a time has chosen as their subject for December "The Abolition of War," and at the suggestion of the American Peace Society has kindly decided to ask consideration of the subject on the third Sunday of the month instead of the second, their usual day. This will bring the day into much wider notice.

A special effort is being made to secure recognition of the day on the Continent of Europe. The Peace Congress at Antwerp passed a resolution calling attention to the matter and we hope the Christian friends of peace on the Continent may join us in an effort to bring about the world-wide observance of at least one Sunday in fifty-two in the interests of a great movement which has its